

Great Lakes Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting
Erie County Conservation District
February 6, 2007
10:00am – 1:00pm

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Committee Members in Attendance:

Lori Boughton	Nick Mobilia
Tom Fuhrman	Dave Skellie
Bill Gough	Nancy Slater
Craig Kern	

Others in Attendance:

John Bartone – Organic Processing Systems	John Torok – Potter County Conservation District
Earl Brown – Erie County Conservation District	Robert Wisener – Erie County Planning Commission
Mark Gorman – PA Environmental Council	Brian Zeppenfeld – Erie County Conservation District

DEP Staff Members in Attendance:

Bill Gast	Leslie Sarvis
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Administrative Items

Nick Mobilia called the meeting to order. The Draft November Meeting Summary could not be approved and 2007 Chair and Vice Chair could not be elected because a quorum was not present. However, both Nick Mobilia and Bill Gough indicated that they are willing to serve again as chair and vice chair, respectively.

DEP Summary of Activities

Leslie Sarvis informed the committee that the Governor's Office has approved new appointments and reappointments. The Great Lakes Committee will have three new committee members: Bob Wisener of the Erie County Planning Commission will fill the "professional" vacancy, Mark Gorman of PEC will fill an environmental vacancy, and John Elliot of Erie Redevelopment Authority will fill an industrial vacancy. Once the Oath of Office is received, the new Committee members can officially perform their duties. There are still a number of vacancies on the committee, and several committee members expressed their concern over poor attendance and lack of quorums. They asked that DEP staff emphasize the importance of attendance by all committee members at meetings between now and March 2008.

Leslie referred to the Statewide Committee update memo dated December 19, 2006. Updates to the memo included the following:

Atlas and Marketing Document: The RFP was issued on January 25. A pre-proposal conference is being held on February 6. Proposals are due February 27.

A second round of public meetings/hearings – as required by Act 220 – will be scheduled in late October or early November to present the Draft State Water Plan to the public.

Pilot Water Availability Screening: Leslie updated the Committee on the pilot project work done by USGS and DEP. She gave a handout to the Committee with the results of the water budget screening for the Codorus watershed in the Lower Susquehanna basin and the Wissahickon watershed in the Delaware basin. The pilot watershed work was done primarily to test the water budget screening tool and Critical Water Planning Area identification process. This work is being used now to help develop a scope of work for statewide application and document technical work. After screenings are completed on watersheds in the Great Lakes basin, DEP would like for members of the Great Lakes CWPA Subcommittee to come to Harrisburg to review the results and provide feedback.

Supporting Resources

- The Chapter 110 Registration Regulations public comment period closed on January 2. DEP is working on a Comment/Response document to finalize the regulations package later this year.
- The Guidelines for Development of a CARP are still under internal review. DEP will notify the Committee of the public comment period.

The 2007 Growing Greener Guidance and Application Package is available (closes April 13) and is posted on the web:

www.depweb.state.pa.us/growinggreener/site/default.asp

Bill Gast and Lori Boughton were asked to talk to the Committee about the Great Lakes Compact, which will be introduced to PA's General Assembly later this year. Lori brought copies of the Compact for Committee members. Bill and Lori emphasized that support for the Compact needs to come from regional groups and organizations. Mark Gorman gave a powerpoint presentation on the Compact and ecological importance of the Great Lakes. Tom Fuhrman encouraged the Committee to pass a motion to send a letter in support of passage of the Compact. A quorum will be necessary at the May meeting to approve such a motion.

Discussion of P&I Subcommittee Request

The Policy & Integration Subcommittee has requested comments from the Regional Committees on the development of Statewide Action Agenda Themes. The Themes were:

1. Data for decision making
2. Education and Outreach
3. Sustainability
4. Flooding and Drought
5. Land Use Planning and Management

Leslie took notes on the Committee's discussion and comments (see attached summary). DEP staff will present the comments of all the Regional Committees to the P&I Subcommittee at their February 26th meeting.

Regional Action Agenda Work Group Session

Committee members broke into small working groups to continue refining their Draft Regional Action Agenda. Members of the working groups kept their notes for further refinement between the February and May meetings. We will work on completing the Action Agenda at the May meeting.

Composting Animal Waste

John Bartone spoke to the Committee about his company, Organic Processing Systems, and he brought a display of a solar energy composting cylinder system. The system offers an environmentally friendly method of composting organic materials. Mr. Bartone answered several questions from Committee members, and he thanked the Committee for its commitment and efforts in the water planning process.

Follow-Up/Next Steps

- Committee members asked DEP staff to stress that attendance of all committee members at that the May meeting is vital to approve past meeting summaries, vote on a chair and vice chair and, in particular, to discuss a motion to draft a letter from the Committee expressing the Committee's support of the Great Lakes Compact.
- The next meeting is on Tuesday, May 8 at the Erie County Conservation District

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.